

KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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FEATURING:

- ▶ Agricultural Prices
- ▶ Cold Storage
- ▶ Livestock Slaughter
- ▶ Farm Labor
- ▶ Chicken & Eggs
- ▶ Cattle on Feed
- ▶ Milk Production

KENTUCKY CROP PRICES ADVANCE

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers were up for crops while generally down for livestock.

Prices for cattle and calves were mixed. **Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over at mid-November averaged \$87.00 per cwt. This was down \$1.00 from the October price while up \$15.00 from a year earlier. **Beef cows** averaged \$44.00 per cwt., up \$2.00 from the previous month and \$12.00 from November 2002. This was the highest beef cow price since August 2001. **Calves** under 500 pounds averaged \$99.00 per cwt., up \$3.00 from a month earlier and \$19.00 from a year earlier. This was the highest calf price since July 2001.

Price of hogs was down from a month earlier. **Barrows and gilts** for mid-November averaged \$34.00 per cwt. This was down \$3.00 from October while up \$6.00 from a year earlier. **Sows** averaged \$29.00 per cwt. This was down \$1.00 from a month earlier while up \$8.00 from November 2002.

The **all milk** price for mid-November averaged \$16.10 per cwt., unchanged from the previous month and up \$3.10 from a year earlier. The \$16.10 price was the highest milk price since November 2001.

Prices of all three grains, corn, soybeans and winter wheat, were up from October. The mid-November price for **corn** was \$2.35 per bushel, up 14 cents from October while down 25 cents from a year earlier. The **soybean** price for mid-month was \$7.50 per bushel, up 77 cents from the October price and \$1.78 from November 2002. The mid-month price was the highest since August 1997. The mid-month **winter wheat** price was \$3.70 per bushel, up 63 cents from a month earlier and 32 cents from a year earlier.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November is 117, based on 1990-92=100, 4 points (3.5 percent) above the October Index. Both the Livestock and Products Index and the All Crops Index were higher in November. Producers received higher commodity prices for cattle, corn, soybeans, and wheat. Lower prices were received for cotton, hogs, and milk. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of all milk, cotton, cattle, and cottonseed offset decreased marketings of peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers, and potatoes.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 20 points (20.6 percent) from November, 2002. Food Commodities Index increased 5 points (4.3 percent) above last month to 121, and is 25 points (26.0 percent) above November 2002. This index value is the highest since records began in 1975.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		NOV 2002	OCT 2003	NOV 2003	NOV 2003
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn b/ c/	Bu.	2.60	2.21	2.35	2.24
Soybeans b/	Bu.	5.72	6.73	7.50	7.37
Winter Wheat b/	Bu.	3.38	3.07	3.70	3.64
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	105.00	115.00	115.00	88.00
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	61.00	67.00	67.00	64.90
All Hogs	Cwt.	27.70	36.70	33.80	34.80
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	28.00	37.00	34.00	35.00
Sows	Cwt.	21.00	30.00	29.00	30.00
All Beef Cattle d/	Cwt.	62.40	77.00	76.70	93.20
Steers & Heifers e/	Cwt.	72.00	88.00	87.00	99.70
Cows	Cwt.	32.00	42.00	44.00	46.70
Calves f/	Cwt.	80.00	96.00	99.00	112.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	13.00	16.10	16.10	14.90
Hog-Corn Ratios g/	Bu.	10.7	16.6	14.4	15.5

a/ Preliminary. **b/** Includes contract sales paid during month. **c/** Includes yellow and white corn. **d/** "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. **e/** 500 lbs. and over. **f/** Under 500 lbs. **g/** Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on October 31, 2003, were greater than year earlier levels for frozen eggs and vegetables.

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Oct. 03 as % of	
Commodity	Oct. 31, 2002	Sept. 30, 2003	Oct. 31, 2003	Oct. 2002	Sept. 2003
Frozen Poultry		1,000 lbs		Percent	
Chicken	861,284	604,452	603,471	70	100
Turkey	624,940	647,483	572,360	92	88
Ducks	8,875	2,931	2,733	31	93
Total Frozen Poultry	1,495,099	1,254,866	1,178,564	79	94
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	525,167	379,828	375,930	72	99
Frozen Pork					
Bellies	10,354	10,180	20,991	203	206
Total Frozen Pork <u>1/</u>	489,802	435,182	465,331	95	107
Total Meat <u>2/</u>	1,038,867	832,155	857,859	83	103

1/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 2/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.15 billion pounds in October, down 5 percent from the 4.38 billion pounds produced in October 2002. October 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. October 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays. Beef production, at 2.21 billion pounds, was 12 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.00 million head, down 8 percent from October 2002. The average live weight was down 39 pounds from the previous year, at 1,231 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.91 billion pounds, a record monthly high and up 4 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.64 million head, 3 percent above October 2002. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 267 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 9 percent from October 2002. Sheep slaughter totaled 265,500 head, 12 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, up 3 pounds from October a year ago.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY 1/

Type	October 2002	September 2003	October 2003	Oct. 03 as % of	
				October 2002	September 2003
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,512	2,312	2,211	88	96
Veal	18.7	15.4	16.4	87	106
Pork	1,831	*1,663	1,909	104	115
Lamb & Mutton	19.7	16.9	18.0	91	106
Total U.S.	4,382	4,008	4,154	95	104
Total Kentucky	43.7	42.8	48.0	110	112

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter. * Revised.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. OCTOBER 2002 & 2003 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	1.9	1.7	1,644	1,507	851	866
Hogs	220.1	238.8	57,586	63,299	262	265
Sheep & Lambs	0.9	1.1	112	146	127	130
United States						
Cattle	3,266.6	3,002.6	4,148,453	3,695,836	1,270	1,231
Hogs	9,403.6	9,638.7	2,482,798	2,575,859	264	267
Sheep & Lambs	300.6	265.5	39,617	35,706	132	135

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

U.S. HIRED WORKERS DOWN 1 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 1 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 1,197,000 hired workers on the **Nation's** farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 891,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 306,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.05 per hour during the October 2003 reference week, up 10 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 8 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.64 per hour compared with \$8.42 a year

earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.47 per hour, was up 11 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the **3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee** totaled 38,000 during the week of October 12-18, 2003.

Field workers in the region were paid \$7.56 per hour, compared to \$7.13 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$8.12 per hour compared to \$7.46 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$8.04.

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

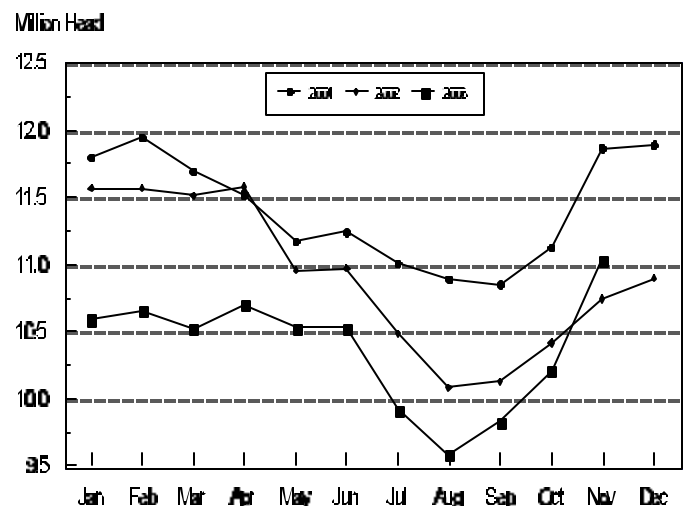
Type	Oct. 2002	Oct. 2003	Oct. 2003 % of Oct. 2002
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,412	7,392	100
Average Layers (000)	338,159	333,251	99
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,192	2,218	101
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)	29,935	29,466	98
Chicks Hatched (000)	32,149	34,999	109
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Nov 1 (000)	574,140	588,046	102
Chicks Hatched (000)	720,564	734,801	102

U. S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.0 million head on November 1, 2003. The inventory was 3 percent above November 1, 2002 but 7 percent below November 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.78 million, 16 percent above 2002 and 3 percent above 2001. Net placements were 2.68 million. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 1.02 million, 600-699 pounds were 796,000, 700-799 pounds were 508,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 454,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during October totaled 1.86 million, 6 percent below 2002 and 2 percent below 2001. **Other disappearance** totaled 101,000 during October, 20 percent above 2002 and 49 percent above 2001.

United States Cattle on Feed
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots



MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for October 2003 totaled 113 million pounds, down 8 percent from October 2002 but up 5 percent from last month. Average number of cows on farms, at 110,000 head, was down 10,000 head from a year earlier and down 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,025 pounds, unchanged from October 2002 but up 50 pounds from September 2003.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during October totaled 12.0 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent

from October 2002. September revised production, at 11.6 billion pounds, was down 5 million pounds from September 2002. The September revision represented an increase of 2 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,550 pounds for October, 11 pounds above October 2002. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 70,000 head less than October 2002, and 25,000 head less than September 2003.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR OCTOBER, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>2/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		2003 as % of 2002
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,664	1,702	1,760	1,710	2,929	2,910	99
IL	115	108	1,430	1,450	164	157	96
IN	147	144	1,435	1,490	211	215	102
KY	120	110	1,025	1,025	123	113	92
MO	136	126	1,120	1,200	152	151	99
OH	262	259	1,410	1,420	369	368	100
VA	119	110	1,260	1,225	150	135	90
WI	1,268	1,250	1,410	1,450	1,788	1,813	101
20 State Total	7,789	7,719	1,539	1,550	11,991	11,965	100

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>